

JUST NOT YOUR DAY WYCOMBE!

SURVIVING tremendous pressure at times, Leatherhead became only the second club to put the double over Wycombe Wanderers on Saturday when they held on to to more Isthmian League points to add to their 2-1 victory at Loakes Park on October 28.

But while Hendon — the only other club to beat Wycombe twice — deserved both their victories over the champions, Leatherhead can count themselves decidedly fortunate to have repeated the feat.

Only the goalposts saved them from being 2-0 down in the first 15 minutes and their rugged defence was on edge throughout the match. Having hammered away for almost the entire 90 minutes, Wanderers must have thought it just wasn't their day.

However, bearing in mind that luck certainly wasn't with them on Saturday, they have only themselves to blame in defeat. Clearly the better team, they just could not turn their superiority into material gain — goals. Yet again the opportunities were there, yet again they were spurned.

Every other aspect of Wycombe's game was promising. Defensively they were sound, Rob Williams' efforts in midfield ensured plenty of possession while the new look front three of Langfield, Pritchard and Horseman was full of penetration. It was simply another case of missed chances that had plagued the Blues this term.

In only the second minute Wanderers should have taken an all-important lead. Goalkeeper Peter Smith raced out to collect a through ball as Larry Pritchard closed in. Pritchard's momentum took him past the 'keeper but under pressure as a couple of

much taller Reid and gave his fellow defender a "mouthful." Reid promptly replied with a punch and was booked by referee A. Turvey. It must be one of the few occasions a player had had his name taken for striking one of his own players!

after a great run by Williams, thundered in one shot from five yards but it cannoned off Smith's body and ricocheted for a corner. Four minutes later Williams forced his way through to try a shot which Smith did well to take at the second attempt.

writhed in agony only seconds earlier.

In a last bid for goals, Wycombe brought on Tony Amos for Paul Birdseye with 16 minutes left. Birdseye could not recapture his recent form on Saturday, wanting too much time and tending to waste possession with misdirected passes.

It didn't take long for Amos to stamp his mark on the game. From a Delaney free kick Horseman nodded on for Amos who lofted his drive towards the top corner, only for Smith to race across and gather.

Piling it on for the last five minutes, the powerful left boot of Amos almost earned the Blues a richly deserved point but his drive skimmed over the top and with it went Wycombe's final chance.

By **STUART EARP**, Leatherhead 1, Wycombe W. 0

defenders raced back, his shot struck the upright with the goal unguarded.

Then in the fourth minute, put through by the much improved Alan Gane, Pritchard miscued another effort when well placed. Thirty seconds later, Brian Langfield stepped onto the scene with a strong header but straight at Smith.

So, after only five minutes three chances had been carved out, albeit two of them difficult, but none turned into goals.

Leatherhead's first retort looked far more dangerous when John Cooper put Chris Kelly through. After rounding Derek Gamblin, Kelly had only John Maskell to beat but his lofted shot was brilliantly saved by the 'keeper.

The action didn't settle in the Wycombe half for long, however, and another opportunity went by the board in the eighth minute. Pritchard rose brilliantly to out-jump centre half Dave Read, flicked the ball over the top of a defender and slipped round the 'keeper. But in beating Smith, Larry made the angle for his shot too acute and crashed the ball into the side netting.

Former Wanderer Barry Davies was not amused by the way Pritchard had beaten the

The fans' amusement over the incident was soon forgotten a minute later when Alan Gane sent in a dipping shot from 25 yards which clipped the crossbar and went over the top.

For all their efforts, however, Wanderers found themselves a goal down after 20 minutes. Former Chesham veteran Ron Fruen's glancing header gave Barry Friend some extra room and after going round Delaney, the England International slotted the ball over the coverless Maskell.

To their credit, Wycombe put this reverse behind them, and must have been thinking their luck would change sooner or later. Tony Horseman, sent clear

Mixing their raids through the middle with the occasional attacks down the wing via Langfield, Wycombe had the home defence on the rack. Smith was always unsteady while Reid could never master the lively Pritchard. But by half time, the Blues had nothing to show for their efforts.

As in the early stages of the first half, Wycombe's best chances came early on in the second period. Langfield, scorer of three goals on three appearances in a Wycombe shirt, had the opportunity to make it four out of four when Reid and Smith collided in going for Gamblin's cross. The ball bounced conveniently at Langfield's feet but he dallied too long and allowed Leatherhead to re-group, block his eventual shot and clear.

Forcing three corners in 12 minutes, Wycombe sustained their effort with Pritchard always involved. About the only thing he couldn't do was score, as was demonstrated again in the 67th minutes. Wycombe sustained ly timed pass avoided the off side trap. As Smith came out to face Pritchard once again, Larry curled his shot wide of the mark.

Centre back Ian Rundle went into the referee's notebook in the 71st minute for upending Friend, who made a remarkable recovery in ultra-quick time, having

Leatherhead: P. Smith, B. Davies, J. Cooper, D. Reid, A. Brazier, D. Wells, B. Friend, B. Webb, C. Kelly, P. Lavers, R. Fruen.

Wycombe: J. Maskell, D. Gamblin, I. Rundle, J. Delaney, D. Bulllock, R. Williams, P. Birdseye (sub A. Amos 74 mins), A. Gane, L. Pritchard, A. Horseman, B. Langfield.

Referee: A. Turvey (Essex).
Half-time: 1-0. Goalscorer — Friend (20).

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hendon	29	24	5	0	68	13	53
Leatherhead	33	18	7	8	56	24	43
Ttg. & Mchm. U	32	17	9	6	60	26	43
Walthamstow A.	31	16	11	4	51	27	43
Kingstonian	31	17	6	8	51	36	40
Watlin & Hrschm	27	16	6	5	35	16	38
Wycombe W.	30	17	3	10	48	24	37
Bishop Siford	26	14	8	4	39	18	36
Sutton U.	29	14	8	7	45	31	36
Dulwich Hamlet	32	14	6	12	47	42	34
Ilford	33	13	8	12	43	48	34
Enfield	28	13	7	8	51	32	33
Woking	31	14	4	13	35	15	32
Hayes	26	10	6	10	38	29	26
Leytonstone	28	8	10	10	34	37	26
Hitchin Town	29	10	5	14	37	52	25
Barking	31	7	6	20	36	56	20
St. Albans C.	30	5	7	18	29	55	17
Clapton	30	3	7	20	29	78	13
Bromley	32	2	8	22	21	57	12
Oxford City	33	3	6	24	22	84	12
Corinth. Cas.	31	2	5	21	20	83	9

DARTS

THE Blues Social Club have arranged a darts match against some of the Wycombe Wanderers team on Thursday night, after the players regular training session. It is the first match between the two sections of the club.

The club house will be open for anyone interested and the match is scheduled to start between 8.30 and 9 o'clock.